credit to tribal population. The credit limits for this purpose are also sanctioned on relaxed terms and conditions.

17. The credit requirements of the banks implementing thrust programmes of Govt. of India like Intensive Cereal Development Programme are also being taken into account by NABARD while estimating the realistic lending programme of the banks for the purpose of sanction of short term credit limits seasonal agricultural operations.

18. NABARD has also been sanctioning mid-term conversion loans to cooperatives and RRBs to enable these banks to postpone recovery of dues of farmers affected by natural calamities and to provide these farmers with fresh production credit.

19. NABARD has also been providing medium term non-schematic refinance a concessional rate of interest to cooperative banks/RRBs to facilitate investment on minor irrigation, animal husbandary, farm machinery etc.

20. With a view to strengthen the share capital base of cooperative credit institutions to enable them to increase their borrowing powers and enhance the flow of credit, long-term loans are sanctioned to State Govts. to contribute to the share capital of these institutions.

21. NABARD has taken steps to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with State Cooperative Banks State Land Development Bank and State Govts. under which development plan are to be prepared and implemented by the Banks.

22. Step have been initiated by RBI & NABARD to ensure viability of RRBs and improve their operational efficiency.

Facilities for Handicapped people

*454. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent are the existing institutes are catering to the needs of handicapped people in the country; and

(b) whether any efforts are being made to enhance the availability of medical assistance to orthopaedically handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) There are four National Institutes, one in each area of disability, working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Welfare. They are:

(a) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun. (NIVH)

(b) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay. (NIHH)

(c) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad. and (NIMH)

(d) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta. (NIOH)

The following two Apex level Institutions are also working under the Ministry of Welfare, in the area of Orthopaedically Handicapped:—

(a) National Institute for Rehabilitation. Training and Research, Cuttack; and (NIRTAR)

(b) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. (IPH)

These Institutes are premier institutions primarily for manpower development in their respective area of disability. They conduct Diploma and Degree Courses in different disciplines. They also serve as premier documentation and information centres. Development and standardisation of aids/appliances and preparation of awareness material are also their responsibility In addition, they conduct many short-term courses also.

In order to provide wider coverage, the NIMH, Secunderabad; NIVH, Deradun; and NIHH, Bombay; have the following regional centres:

(a) Regional Centres of NIMH at Bombay; Calcutta and New Delhi.

(b) Regional Centres of NIHH at Calcutta New Delhi; Hyderabad and State collaborated centres at Bhubaneshwar and Training centre for the Adult-Deaf at Hyderabad.

There is also a proposal to set up two regional centres by each National Institute under Ministry of Welfare in the current financial year.

There is a proposal to set up National Institute for the Multiple handicapped at Madras.

In addition, the following National Institutes are functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:—

(a) All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Bombay; (AIIPMR)

(b) All India Institute of Speech and Hearing; Mysore. (AIISH)

(c) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences Bangalore. (NIMHANS)

Out of the four institutions working in the area of Orthopaedically Handicapped; namely IPH; New Delhi; NIRTAR; Cuttack; NIOH; Calcutta; and AIIPMR, Bombay; provide facilities for reconstructive surgery also. All the four organisations; however; provide services in Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy They also fit aids and appliances to the orthopaedically handicapped.

So far; medical assistance to orthopaedically handicapped people is concerned; that is the responsibility of various hospitals run by Central Government/State Governments/local authorities; charitable organisations; including NGOs.

Agricultural Subsidies used by manufactures of inputs

*455. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidies categorised as agricultural often reach only to the manufacturers of inputs.

(b) if so, the types of subsidies which reach the said manufacturers; and

(c) the reason for calling them agricultural subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c) The subsidy admissible under the Retention Pricing Scheme for Urea is intended to make Urea available to farmers at an uniform price of Rs. 3320 per tonne throughout the country even though its cost of production and of import is higher. In addition, a scheme of providing concession on sale of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers to the farmers is also being implemented w.e.f. Rabi 1992-93 to cushion the impact of the high prices of these fertilisers after decontrol.

Under crop development programmes, incentive is provided for use of certified/quality seeds, specified agricultural implements and plant protection equipments, sprinklers and drips etc., as part of transfer of technology with a view to making these inputs available to farmers at a cost lower than the cost of production. States/UTs may also be giving subsidies on other inputs such as irrigation and electricity.

Agricultural subsidies are aimed at benefitting the farmers by encouraging the use of these inputs for increasing agricultural production.

Accredited institution in Karnataka under National Open School

*456. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students enrolled under National Open School (NOS) during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 for Secondary and Senior Secondary courses;

(b) which are the accredited institutions in Karnataka for academic courses and vocational courses;